



Organised by  **socialplatform** in cooperation with  **REPÚBLICA PORTUGUESA**
MINISTÉRIO DO TRABALHO, SEGURANÇA SOCIAL E SEGURANÇA SOCIAL

VIRTUAL FLAGSHIP CONFERENCE
 4 - 5 May 2021

#buildingsocialeurope

BUILDING SOCIAL EUROPE

An official side event of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union

 **2021 PORTUGAL.EU**

WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Social Platform Flagship Conference: Building Social Europe

4-5 May 2021

Workshop 1 – Roadmap to quality employment through a just transition and a fair recovery

Co-hosted by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) & SOLIDAR

1. EU and Member States must ensure they reach the quantitative headline target 1 in a way that creates and fosters quality employment. This means adopting bold strategies and measures as part of a just green transition and recovery, including adequate wages, job security, health and safety, life-long learning, collective bargaining and work-life balance, for all.
2. A holistic interpretation of a just transition is necessary to ensure social and labour market inclusion for those who are traditionally 'left behind' and most negatively affected by the green transition. The EU and Member States must strengthen the integration of environmental and social policies and strategies and considerably increase the Just Transition Fund to underpin them.

Workshop 2 – Life-long and life-wide learning for just green transitions

Co-hosted by the European Parents' Association (EPA), SOLIDAR Foundation & Volonteuropé

1. Every EU policy has to make sure that it contributes to a just green transition and to the implementation of a sustainable digital infrastructure and digital skills; these are key to inclusion and cohesion. Life-long and life-wide learning is a continuous process and a human right that needs a holistic approach to curricula, methodology and evaluation, and that hears the voices of all stakeholders: students, learners, parents, employers, civil society, and democratic institutions.
2. Every EU policy has to make sure it contributes to a just green transition and has to include a life-long learning dimension. Life-long Learning cannot be reduced to employability; to maintain and enhance democratic societies we must include the development of active democratic citizenship. Transversal competences are mainly acquired through non-formal and informal learning, social action, and volunteering. Member States must guarantee that these competences are validated in cooperation with civil society and employers' organisations, chambers, and other responsible actors.

Workshop 3 – Reducing inequalities from the first years of life: The role of early childhood development

Co-hosted by the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) & Eurochild

1. A strong social Europe starts with upholding the rights of all children regardless of their social, administrative (e.g. migrants) or other status from their earliest years. In implementing the

European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, Member State and EU decision-makers must set ambitious targets to reduce child poverty and tackle persistent health and social inequalities disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups by investing in early childhood development so that every child has a fair start in life.

2. Member State and EU decision-makers must urgently address levels of social exclusion, poverty and discrimination faced by children from vulnerable groups from early childhood. This requires an assessment of needs, including disaggregated data on poverty and exclusion among children under the age of six, and action to address systemic disparities in access to social rights among young children and their families.

Workshop 4 – The road to social Europe? An Action Plan for and with Europe’s social economy

Co-hosted by the European confederation of industrial and service cooperatives (CECOP) & the European Network of Social Integration Enterprises (ENSIE)

1. The Social Economy Action Plan must have a real impact on the support and promotion of the social economy, its actors, and their economic model. It should make strong links with the existing EU policies enabling green, fair, circular transitions in the post-COVID economic recovery. While embracing social economy enterprises, activism, and all sectors of the economy, it should also prioritise the social and professional inclusion of disadvantaged people, especially young people and ethnic minorities, including the Roma.
2. Adequate funding encouraging accessible education and training opportunities to achieve social justice and equality are fundamental. For the adequate implementation of the Action Plan, public authorities at all levels (national, regional and local) should guarantee the active participation of all stakeholders. In order to provide an effective impetus for the social economy, the European Commission needs, in parallel to the Action Plan, to also consider social economy enterprises, their specificities and their needs, in all other policies and regulations that concern them such as the Industry Strategy, taxation policies, the SME Strategy etc.